

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, CVIS, SHUM, ESTC, ETRD, RO

SUBJECT: NIMETZ-NICOLAE MEETING JANUARY 10

1. COUNSELOR'S LENGTHY MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR NICOLAE COVERED US POLICY TOWARD EASTERN EUROPE, OVERVIEW OF US-ROMANIAN RELATIONS, EMIGRATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES INCLUDING RAUTA CASE, EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATIONS, CEAUSESCU VISIT TO US, AND ROMANIAN INTEREST IN OTHER HIGH-LEVEL VISITS. NICOLAE WAS PROBING CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S APPROACH TO ROMANIA AND STRESSED NEED FOR CONCRETE STEPS THAT WOULD SHOW ROMANIAN LEADERSHIP, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS "VERY PRAGMATIC", THAT US-ROMANIAN RELATIONS ARE IMPROVING. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW.

2. US POLICY IN EASTERN EUROPE. IN RESPONSE TO NICOLAE'S INQUIRY ABOUT SIGNIFICANCE OF RETURN OF CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN, COUNSELOR SAID WE REGARDED CROWN'S RETURN AS UN-CONFIDENTIAL

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FINISHED BUSINESS AND HAD RESOLVED IT WAS A GOOD THING TO DO DESPITE SOME OPPOSITION AMONG THE AMERICAN-HUNGARIAN COMMUNITY. NICOLAE ASKED ABOUT IMPLICATIONS FOR US-HUNGARIAN TRADE. COUNSELOR REPLIED THAT SECRETARY VANCE HAD DISCUSSED MFN WITH THE HUNGARIANS AND THAT THE SAME TYPE OF UNDERSTANDING WITH REGARD TO EMIGRATION, UNDER THE TERMS OF THE JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT, WOULD BE NECESSARY

WITH HUNGARY AS HAD BEEN REACHED WITH ROMANIA. A TRADE AGREEMENT HAD NOT BEEN WORKED OUT YET, AND THERE WAS MORE TO DO IN COMING MONTHS. NICOLAE ASKED WHAT THE SECRETARY HAD MEANT BY A "CASE-BY-CASE" APPROACH TO EASTERN EUROPE. COUNSELOR RESPONDED THAT IN VIEW OF GREAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EE COUNTRIES, US APPROACH WAS TO DEVELOP RELATIONS ON A COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY BASIS RATHER THAN TOWARD REGION AS A WHOLE. IN SOME INSTANCES, FOR EXAMPLE CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BOTH THE COUNTRY'S INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POLICIES POSED DIFFICULTIES FOR US, AND THEREFORE OUR RELATIONS WERE LESS ADVANCED THAN WITH ROMANIA, HUNGARY OR POLAND.

3. CEAUSESCU VISIT. COUNSELOR SAID HE WISHED WE COULD PROPOSE FIRM DATES FOR THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THE US, BUT THERE WAS A DELAY IN SCHEDULING ALL SUCH VISITS BECAUSE OF PREVIOUS RESCHEDULING OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S TRAVEL. WE HOPE PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S VISIT CAN BE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS AND WILL TRY TO GET A DEFINITE ANSWER IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

4. EMIGRATION/MFN. AS AN EXAMPLE OF AN AREA WHERE WORK MIGHT BE DONE IN PREPARING THE WAY FOR A SUCCESSFUL CEAUSESCU VISIT, COUNSELOR MENTIONED EMIGRATION AND THE MID-TERM REVIEW NOW IN PROGRESS. HE POINTED TO THE INCREASE IN EMIGRATION RATES TO THE US AND WEST GERMANY, CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTRASTING WITH A DECLINE IN EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL THAT IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND. NICOLAE INTERJECTED THAT THE QUESTION SHOULD NOT BE THE TOTAL NUMBER EMIGRATING TO ISRAEL BUT HOW MANY OF THOSE WHO WANT TO LEAVE CAN DO SO. IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING, NICOLAE SAID, THAT ALMOST NO ONE IS DENIED PERMISSION TO DEPART. COUNSELOR RESPONDED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO FIND A WAY OF DEMONSTRATING THAT THIS IS IN FACT THE CASE. SOME IN CONGRESS HAD SUGGESTED THAT LISTS OF APPLICANTS MIGHT PROVIDE A MEANS OF DOING SO. THIS IS PRIMARILY A MATTER BETWEEN THE ROMANIAN AND ISRAELI GOVERNMENTS SO WE COULD NOT PRESS THE IDEA, BUT IT COULD BE CONSIDERED.

5. THE COUNSELOR SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF ANNUAL HEARINGS ON ROMANIAN EMIGRATION WITH KEY CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS. TO CHANGE THE PRESENT PROCEDURE, THERE APPEAR TO BE TWO ALTERNATIVES. THE FIRST WOULD BE TO CHANGE THE LAW, BUT THERE IS NO PROSPECT OF DOING THIS IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE SINCE IT WOULD OPEN A WHOLE RANGE OF ISSUES, INCLUDING SOME INVOLVING US-SOVIET RELATIONS. THE OTHER APPROACH WOULD BE FOR SENATOR RIBICOFF AND CONGRESSMAN VANIK, THE SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, AND OTHER

KEY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO AGREE THAT HEARINGS WERE NOT

NECESSARY. IT HAD BEEN SUGGESTED, THE COUNSELOR SAID, THAT THIS MIGHT HAPPEN IF EMIGRATION LEVELS REACHED AGREED, SATISFACTORY LEVELS, ALTHOUGH TO BE SURE THERE WOULD BE PRESSURE FROM CERTAIN GROUPS TO SCHEDULE HEARINGS. NICOLAE RESPONDED THAT IT WAS NOT JUST A QUESTION OF WHETHER HEARINGS WERE HELD IN ANY GIVEN YEAR. A LONG-TERM SOLUTION WAS NEEDED SO THAT ECONOMIC RELATIONS COULD DEVELOP ON A SECURE BASIS. NICOLAE ADDED THAT THERE IS ALSO A POLITICAL ASPECT, IN THAT WHAT ROMANIA CONSIDERS AS EXTRANEIOUS MATTERS ARE RAISED AT THE HEARINGS ON MFN.

6. US-ROMANIAN RELATIONS/HUMAN RIGHTS. THE COUNSELOR OUT-CONFIDENTIAL

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LINED THREE ASPECTS OF US-ROMANIAN RELATIONS, EACH OF WHICH TO SOME EXTENT REPRESENTS THE INTERESTS OF CERTAIN "CONSTITUENCIES" THAT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND. FIRST, THE JEWISH COMMUNITY WOULD BE SATISFIED IF IT COULD BE DEMONSTRATED THAT ROMANIAN JEWS WHO WISH TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL CAN DO SO. SECOND, AMERICAN-HUNGARIAN GROUPS WOULD BE PLEASED IF ROMANIA WERE TO SHOW A WILLINGNESS TO DEAL SYMPATHETICALLY WITH MINORITY GROUPS. THE THIRD, AND MORE COMPLEX, ASPECT CENTERS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. AN EXAMPLE OF HOW THIS ISSUE ENTERS INTO US-ROMANIAN RELATIONS, COUNSELOR SAID, IS THE LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENT THAT THE US CONSIDER A COUNTRY'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD IN VOTING ON THAT COUNTRY'S LOAN APPLICATIONS TO THE WORLD BANK. ALL THESE ISSUES WILL HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH OVER THE COMING YEARS, AND SOME OF THEM WILL NOT BE EASY. THE GOR SHOULD DO ITS BEST IN THIS FIELD. THE US APPLIED ITS POLICY IN AN EVEN-HANDED WAY AND THE US IS NOT "TARGETTING" ROMANIA. WE DID NOT, FOR EXAMPLE, SPECIFICALLY CRITICIZE ROMANIA AT THE BELGRADE FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE. AREAS OF MUTUAL OR CONVERGING INTEREST REMAIN, FOR EXAMPLE ON THE MIDDLE EAST, DISARMAMENT, AND THE DESIRE TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF THE HELSINKI PROCESS AFTER BELGRADE. FURTHER, OUR FOREIGN MINISTERS HAVE GOOD RELATIONS, AS DID AMBASSADORS GOLDBERG AND LIPATTI IN BELGRADE.

7. NICOLAE SAID HE BELIEVES US AND ROMANIA HAVE GOOD RELATIONS DESPITE OCCASIONAL DIFFERENCES OF OPINION. THE PROBLEM WAS TO SOLVE DIFFICULTIES ON CONCRETE ISSUES. AS EXAMPLES OF CONCRETE PROBLEMS, NICOLAE CITED DIFFICULTIES AND DELAYS IN OBTAINING US EXPORT LICENSES. HE CITED A CASE, REPORTED IN THE JERUSALEM POST, IN WHICH ROMANIAN-ISRAELI COOPERATION IN ELECTRONICS WAS JEOPARDIZED BY US EXPORT LICENSING REQUIREMENTS. COUNSELOR REPLIED THAT US CONFIDENTIAL

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ALSO SEES CONCRETE PROBLEMS THAT NEED TO BE SOLVED. THE CONGRESS, FOR EXAMPLE, REGARDS ROMANIAN EMIGRATION PROCEDURES AS AN EXAMPLE OF SUCH A PROBLEM. NICOLAE RESPONDED THAT THE ROMANIAN LEADERSHIP IS VERY PRAGMATIC

AND NEEDS TO BE SHOWN SPECIFIC WAYS IN WHICH RELATIONS WITH THE US ARE IMPROVING. HE THEN DWELLED AT LENGTH ON EXPORT LICENSE DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY ROMCONTROL DATA JOINT VENTURE. NICOLAE WAS TOLD THESE WERE WELL ON WAY TO SOLUTION, AND COUNSELOR AGREED TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

8. MONDALE AND VANCE VISITS TO ROMANIA. NICOLAE ASKED FOR COUNSELOR'S HELP IN ARRANGING VISITS TO ROMANIA BY THE SECRETARY AND VICE PRESIDENT IN RESPONSE TO THE INVITATIONS EXTENDED BY FOREIGN MINISTER MACOVESCU. HE SAID THERE WAS A FEELING IN ROMANIA THAT A VISIT BY THE VICE PRESIDENT, PERHAPS BEFORE CEAUSESCU'S VISIT TO THE US, WAS "NEEDED". COUNSELOR SAID THERE IS A GENERAL FEELING HERE THAT THERE HAS BEEN TOO MUCH FOREIGN TRAVEL BY US LEADERS. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE SUCH VISITS IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, BUT THE COUNSELOR PROMISED TO RAISE THE MATTER PERSONALLY WITH THE SECRETARY.

9. IN CLOSING, COUNSELOR SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED US-ROMANIAN RELATIONS WITH SECRETARY VANCE DURING RETURN FROM BUDAPEST AND RECEIVED FROM HIM A VERY POSITIVE AND SPIRITED COMMITMENT TO MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA.

10. NICOLAE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY EMBASSY COUNSELOR AUREL FLOREA, WHO TOLD COUNSELOR THAT STEFAN ANDREI HAD ASKED FLOREA TO TRANSMIT NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES.

11. DISCUSSION OF RAUTA CASE REPORTED SEPTEL. CHRISTOPHER

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